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Service Division

Committee on European Satellites

(Eusat Committee Minutes - 1 March 1956)

Present: [REDACTED]

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The meeting began with a welcome of [REDACTED], representing S/TF, and two permanent guests of the Eusat Committee, [REDACTED] both representing A/EE. The purposes of the Committee were reviewed for the benefit of these individuals.

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The suggestion was made that individuals within the Committee might concentrate their attention to some degree on particular countries of Eastern Europe so that one member, at least, would be relatively well informed on each country of the Eusat area. Action on the suggestion was delayed pending further consideration.

It was also suggested that the members call to the attention of the group books and articles which would be of particular interest to the Committee. This point led to a general discussion of source material on the area. Particular mention was made of Alton's recent book on "The Polish Post-War Economy," Black's "Challenge in Eastern Europe," State Department's monthly "Soviet Affairs," publications of the Council for Economic and Industry Research and various publications of the Mid-European Studies Center. Several members indicated a desire to become better informed on available open source material and related bibliographies concerning Eastern Europe. It was suggested that library and FDD personnel be invited to discuss the matter.

The question was raised as to whether relations between Eusat countries and non-bloc countries were pertinent to Committee discussions. It was generally agreed that these subjects are appropriate. A few illustrations of significant developments in this category were presented: (1) Recent indication that East Germany was producing television transmitters for export which was surprising in view of discussion a short time ago as to whether western exports of such equipment to East Germany should be restricted; (2) Tendency of some Eusats to increase the proportion of raw materials imports from non-bloc areas and (3) The important role which the Eusats are playing in economic penetration of the Middle East as illustrated by the impending Polish reconstruction and modernization of an 840 kilometer rail line from Ma'an to Medina.

The effect of the severe winter weather on Eusat production and transportation was discussed briefly. There have been several indications of serious economic problems caused by the cold and snow in the

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area but a measure of the extent of the influence will probably have to wait on announcements of first quarter economic achievements.

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The next meeting will be held next Wednesday, 7 March, from 1350 to 1450 in room 2125 M, the regular time and place for future meetings. The 7 March meeting will include a report by [REDACTED] on his recent study of economic integration in the Bloc and will be followed by a general discussion of the subject.

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Chairman